

## PRESS RELEASE

Police Department SERGIO G. DIAZ Chief of Police

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HOME INVASION ROBBERY OF MARIJUANA GROWERS LEADS TO THREE ARRESTS Suspects Posed As Police Officers

RIVERSIDE, CA – An investigation into a January 24<sup>th</sup> home invasion robbery ended early this afternoon with a vehicle pursuit from the city of Corona to the Wildomar area of Riverside County involving one of the suspects. The suspect had been armed with a shotgun during the pursuit and threw it out a few minutes before it ended with the suspect's arrest.

In the early morning hours on Friday, three suspects armed with weapons and dressed similar to police officers, forced their way into an Arlanza Neighborhood residence. The residence had a large number of marijuana plants inside which are used to supply a "medical marijuana collective" in a nearby community. The suspects announced themselves as police officers and tied the two victims up, demanding marijuana and cash. While in the residence, the suspects took a large amount of marijuana, cash, personal property and the two victim's vehicles. The victims were able to get out of their restraints and called police after the suspects left.

A short time after the robbery, one of the victim's vehicles was located nearby and had been abandoned. Almost two hours after the robbery, the second stolen vehicle was located by a patrol officer in the area of 14th and Olivewood in downtown Riverside. It

was occupied by 38 year old Joshua Thomas Brown, of Corona. Brown is currently on both formal supervised probation and Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS). Brown was detained. Brown was later booked into Riverside County Jail for home invasion robbery, carjacking, false imprisonment, possession of stolen property, felon in possession of a firearm, impersonation of a police officer, violation of probation, and PRCS violation.

Detectives from the Robbery/Homicide Unit and the Special Investigations Bureau responded and conducted an investigation that ended with today's arrests. Over the following week, detectives identified the other two suspects and located most of the stolen property. Detectives were assisted in this investigation by the METRO (SWAT) team, Police and Corrections Team (PACT), Riverside Police Aviation Unit and the California Highway Patrol.

This morning, METRO team members were watching a residence in the 300 block of Oakwood in the city of Corona for another suspect involved in the robbery. Shortly after 11:30 am, Bruce Scott Grizzle, 42 years, of Corona left a residence and got into a vehicle that had just arrived. The vehicle drove away and METRO officers attempted to stop the vehicle but the vehicle failed to stop. Several minutes after the pursuit began, the driver stopped, exited the vehicle and Bruce Grizzle drove away in the vehicle continuing the pursuit. The original driver was detained.

During parts of the approximate 40 minute pursuit, Bruce Grizzle was holding a shotgun out the window. The pursuit proceeded south on the 15 freeway into the Wildomar area. Shortly before the pursuit ended, Grizzle threw the shotgun and ammunition out the window. The shotgun and ammunition were recovered. The pursuit ended at the dead end of Dahila Lane in Wildomar. Grizzle was taken into custody without further incident.

During the time the pursuit was going on, detectives from the Robbery/Homicide Unit and PACT members contacted and arrested a third suspect, Rony Antoine Khneiser, 33, at his residence in the 3400 block of Ross in Riverside. Khneiser is currently on both formal supervised probation and Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS).

Bruce Grizzle will be booked into Riverside County Jail for home invasion robbery, carjacking, false imprisonment, possession of stolen property, felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, impersonation of a police officer, and felony evading.

Rony Khneiser will be booked into Riverside County Jail for home invasion robbery, carjacking, false imprisonment, possession of stolen property, felon in possession of a firearm, impersonation of a police officer, violation of probation, and PRCS violation.

Anyone with information on this investigation is asked to contact Detective Jim Simons at 951-353-7138 or Detective Jim Brandt at 951-353-7137.

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